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AIR MAIL

24 APR 1952

Mr. Paul W. Ager
Office of Production Coordination
U.S. Atomic Energy Commission
P.O. Box 5400
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Ager:

At a recent meeting in Washington on neutrons and sources it was pointed out that Pu-Be sources have been used at some installations. Since these sources give off a known neutron spectrum they would be very useful in some experiments the Laboratory is contemplating in the near future.

The neutron source required must have the following characteristics: (1) known spectrum for calibration, (2) long half-life, and (3) emit little or no gamma photons. A Pu-Be source meets all of these requirements. We now have on hand several Ra-Be neutron sources which will be used in some of the preliminary experiments such as the development of military neutron radiac equipment. In anticipation of additional neutron experiments a special shielded range with remote handling devices is being designed for neutron source usage.

Several questions have arisen as to the size source it would be possible to acquire and also as to the neutron flux per mg of Pu. Are these Pu-Be neutron sources obtainable from your Los Alamos office under the same conditions outlined in your letter dated 28 February 1952?

Any information that you can give us on this type of neutron source, including where they might be obtained if not available from your Los Alamos office, would be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

A.L. Baietti
Accountability Representative

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